

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /094 W
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R 180820Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9599
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 2702

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IN, PK
SUBJECT: INDO-PAK RELATIONS: MEA VIEWS OF VAJPAYEE VISIT

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 2201
(B) ISLAMABAD 1387

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1. DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH MEA OFFICIALS THIS PAST
WEEK -- VISITING NEA/PAB DIRECTOR JANE COON PARTICIPATED IN
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SIME OF THESE -- SUGGEST THAT THE MINISTRY IS PLEASED WITH
THE WAY THE VAJPAYEE VISIT TO PAKISTAN CAME OFF. THIS
PLEASURE IS HIHGLIGHTED BY A SENSE OF RELIEF THAT THE TWO
SIDES SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED THE PITFALLS WHICH LOOMED ON
THE EVE OF THE VISIT; THE RELIEF ELEMENT SEEMS LESS PRO-
NOUNCED THAN IT IS IN PAKISTAN, HOWEVER. MEA OFFICIALS
ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT ANY MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN INDO-

PAK RELATIONS WAS SCORED. THEIR COMMENTS SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT THE "NEW CHAPTER" IN INDO-PAK RELATIONS WHICH VAYPAYEE SPOKE OF BEFORE THE VISIT WOULD NOT REALLY LOOK THAT DIFFERENT FROM EARLIER PAGES. MS. COON AND THE NEW DELHI POL COUNSELOR, WHO ALONG WITH EMBASSY ISLAMABAD OFFICER HAD MET WITH INDIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS EARLIER, ALSO CAME AWAY WITH SIMILAR IMPRESSIONS FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WE HAVE HAD HERE, MEA OFFICIALS HAVE REFLECTED AND EXPANDED ON VAJPAYEE'S PUBLICLY EXPRESSED VIEW (REF A) THAT HIS VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CREATING A BETTER CLIMATE OF UNDERSTANDING AND IN ESTABLISHING PERSONAL RAPPORT. ON THE LAST POINT, MEA JOINT SECRETARY J.P. SING TOLD US THAT THE INDIANS WHO MET WITH GENERAL ZIA (HE WAS ONE OF THEM) WERE PLEASED WITH THE CMLA'S MANNER, ARTIULATIONS, AND REASONABLE APPROACH. HE APPEARS TO HAVE PROJECTED A PERSONALITY THEY HAD NOT BEEN LED TO EXPECT. SING AND OTHERS, LIKE THE PAKS (REF B), GAVE THE HIGHEST MARKS TO VAJPAYEE HIMSELF FOR THE WAY HE CARRIED OFF THE VISIT. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE SOLIDIFIED FURTHER THE HIGH REGARD IN WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS HELD AT MEA. HE ALSO HAS DOUBTLESS BURNISHED HIS NATIONAL IMAGE AS A CONVERT TO MODERATION. ACCORDING TO SINGH, VAYPAYEE HAS RECEIVED BATCHES OF LETTERS FROM MUSLIMS CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS SUCCESS IN PAKISTAN. THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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NO MEAN FEAT. SUPPORT AMONG MUSLIMS FOR A FORMER JANA SANGHI WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ADVANTAGE SHOULD VAYPAYEE EVENTUALLY MAKE A BID FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP.

3. KASHMIR. THE INDIAN OFFICIALS MAINTAIN, WITH VAYPAYEE, THAT KASHMIR DID NOT DOMI ATE THE ISLAMABAD DISCUSSIONS. AS SING PUTS IT, THE PAKS STRESSED THEIR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS AS AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY RAISED THE KASHMIR ISSUE. (THE INDIANS ALSO MENTIONED THEIR DOMESTIC PROBLEMS.) HE AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE PAKS THAT VAYPAYEE PUBLICLY RECONFIRMED GOI ADHERENCH TO THE SIMLA ACCORD. HE FOUND CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE IN WHAT HE TERMED THE GOP UNDERTAKING TO IMPROVE INDO-PAK RELATIONS WITH A VIEW TOWARD ESTABLISHING A BETTER ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE KASHMIR ISSUE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE RESOLVED. THIS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN THE IMPLICIT GOP POSITION UNDER BHUTTO. ZIA HAD NOW MADE IT EXPLICIT.

4. TRADE AND TRANSIT. SINGH AND MEA JOINT SECRETARY (EXTERNAL PUBLICTY) PURUSHOTTAM ALSO STRESSE D GOI UNDERSTANDING OF THE PYSCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH PAKISTAN FACES ON THE ISSUES OF TRADE WITH INDIA

AND OVERLAND TRANIST. SINGH SAID THE GOI RECOGNIZED

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THAT TRADE SHOULD BE KEPT IN ROUGH BALANCE AND SAID THE
GOP HAD APPRECIATED THIS POSITION. HE SAID THAT VAJPAYEE,
TO REASSURE ZIA ON THIS POINT, HAD TOLD THE CMLA THAT IF
THE PAKS FOUND INDIAN EXPORTS TO PAKISTAN GOING TOO HIGH,
THEY SHOULD CUT THEM BACK. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE
PAKS HAD AGREED TO SELL NATURAL GAS TO THE INDIANS, WHICH
THE PAK EMBASSY HERE HAS TOLD US IS NOT THE CASE.

ON TRANSIT# HE TOOK A RELAXED ATTITUDE. INDIA WOULD
NOT TRY TO FORCE THE PACE, AND EVENTUALLY THE PAKS WOULD
COME AROUND, HE THOUGHT THE AGREEMENT ON THE SHIPMENT
OF INDIAN WHEAT TO AFGHANISTAN BY PAK RAIL AN ENCOURAGING
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DEVELOPMENT IN THIS REGARD.

5. PURUSHTTAM SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THE VAJPAYEE VISIT
PROGRESS IN VARIOUS AREAS MIGHT BE A LITTLE QUICKER.
HE MENTIONED THE AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE JOURNALISTS, AND
GAVE ZIA GREAT CREDIT FOR HIS INVITATION TO INDIAN NEWSMAN
WHO ACCOMPANIED VAJPAYEE TO TOUR THE COUNTRY AFTER HE
LEFT. HE AND SIGH SAW THIS AS THE KIND OF INCREASED
CONTACT WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN IMPROVING TIES. (BUT
THEY ALSO SAID THE PAKS HAD TURNED DOWN THE SUGGESTED
REOPENING OF AN INDIAN POST AT KARACHI, WHICH WOULD HAVE
SPEEDED UP THE SLOW VISA ISSUING PROCESS.) THEY WERE
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE SALAL
DAM DISPUTE; AGHA SHAHI'S VISIT TO DELHI FOR THAT PURPOSE
(AND OTHERS) NOW SEEMS LIKELY TO BE PUSHED BACK INTO
MARCH BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS ON THE INDIAN SIDE.
THERE IS NO INDICATION OF WHEN ZIA WILL COME, HOWEVER,
AND AS YET NO REAL AGREEMENT THAT HE WILL.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
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Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780076-1052
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 2201, 78 ISLAMABAD 1387
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3549183
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDO-PAK RELATIONS: MEA VIEWS OF VAJPAYEE VISIT
TAGS: PEPR, IN, PK, (VAJPAYEE, ATAL BIHARI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58ec07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014